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Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS PFOR, UN, CB
SUBJEC: CAMBODIA REPRESENTATION

REFS: A. TUNIS 6702; B. STATE 236327; C. RABAT 5253

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR UPDATING OF SEC-
RETARY OF STATE HAMZAOUI.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC (GKR) CONTROLS THE CAPITAL, PHNOM PENH, AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, ENCOMPASSED IN AN IRREGULAR ARC OF SOME 25-50 KILOMETERS. IT ALSO CONTROLS THE DEEPWATER PORT OF KOMPONG SOM, AND ALL OF THE SOME 20 PROVINCIAL CAPITALS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FOUR IN NORTHEAST, ABANDONED TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) IN JUNE OF 1970. SINCE THE BULK OF THE POPULATION LIVES ALONG THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND RIVERS, GENERALLY CONTROLLED BY FRIENDLY FORCES, INSURGENT CLAIMS THAT THEY CONTROL 80 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ARE PATENTLY FALSE. GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO CONTINUE TO FLEE THE FIGHTING AND AREAS UNDER KHMER INSURGENT (KI) CONTROL, WE ESTI-
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MATE THAT MORE THAN SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IS

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ADMINISTERED BY THE GKR. THE CAMBODIAN ARMY (FANK) IS NOW ENGAGED IN CLEARING OPERATIONS ALONG THE MAJOR LAND ROUTE TO THE CAPITAL (ROUTE 4 TO KOMPONG SOM) FROM THE GULF OF SIAM. RIVER CONVOYS CONTINUE TO DELIVER SUPPLIES TO PHNOM PENH VIA THE MEKONG (14 SHIPS ARRIVED YESTERDAY AND 13 LAST WEEK). THE KHMER ARMY OF ABOUT 120,000 FACES ABOUT 50,000 INSURGENTS. FANK HAS PASSED ITS FIRST SEVERE MILITARY TEST WITHOUT US COMBAT AIR SUPPORT WHEN IT SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED KOMPONG CHAM, THE THIRD LARGEST PROVINCE CAPITAL 40 MILES NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH AND ADJACENT TO NVA BASES IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR. IN PREPARING FOR THE DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE, FANK HAS RECRUITED ABOUT 10,000 NEW SOLDIERS AND EXPECTS TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THIS NUMBER SHORTLY. ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE SEVERELY TRIED (PARTICULARLY IN KEEPING OPEN LONG LINES OF COMMUNICATION) FANK HAS THE MEN AND MATERIAL FOR ITS SURVIVAL AND, AS SIHANOUK HIMSELF HAS STATED, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE INSURGENTS CAN GAIN A DEFINITIVE MILITARY VICTORY.

3. POLITICALLY, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS STABLE, GIVEN THE WEAR AND TEAR OF THREE YEARS OF WAR IN BASICALLY A SIMPLE SOCIETY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS REITERATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS, INCLUDING WITH PRINCE SIHANOUK SHOULD HE BE SO DESIGNATED BY HIS COMMUNIST ASSOCIATES. THE INSURGENTS, FOR THEIR PART AND NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE UN, HAVE PROMISED ONLY VENGEANCE.

4. PRESIDENT NIXON ON NOVEMBER 26 REITERATED CONTINUED FULL US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR THE GKR IN ITS EFFORTS TO REMAIN FREE. THE US DOES NOT BELIEVE THE UN SHOULD REWARD AGGRESSION NOR LEGITIMIZE EXILE REGIMES WHICH DO NOT FULFILL THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP. AS A COMPANION PIECE TO THE ABOVE, WE ARE ALSO REPEATING TO YOU IN REF B A PAPER DETAILING THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE KHMER REPRESENTATION QUESTION.

5. IF IT IS APPROPRIATE, YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW ON REF C.
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